(c) the number of officials of the NHAI that have been found involved in the matter and action taken against them and further action Government propose to take to prevent occurrence of similar offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Director of M/s Maharia Resurfacing and Construction Pvt. Ltd. has been arrested by Delhi Police. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has field 5 complaints with Delhi Police against the contractors M/s Maharia Resurfacing & Construction Pvt. Ltd., M/s Maharia Raj (Joint Venture) and M/s You-one Maharia (JV) for furnishing false Bank guarantees in execution of five contracts. Delhi Police is investigating the matter.

(b) and (c) The Vigilance Wing of the NHAI is investigating the matter. NHAI has strengthened the system of verification of Bank guarantees to prevent any such recurrence.

Indo-US cooperation in Space Technology

1130. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any discussion on Indo-US co-operation in space technology and commerce under the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the above discussions;

(c) if so, whether there are any proposals for Launch Service Agreement (LSA) and Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) in the above discussions;

(d) if so, the status of the above proposals as on date; and

(e) if so, whether there is a drift in Indo-US space co-operation as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) was declared completed through a Joint Statement on July 18, 2005. As a result of NSSP, ISRO Headquarters was removed from the Entity List of the US

Department of Commerce, and certain low technology items were de-licensed for ISRO units that remained in the Entity List. Subsequently, three other units of ISRO also have been removed from the entity list.

(c) and (d) Following the discussions on NSSP, a Technology Safeguards Agreement related to the launch of US licensed satellites from India has been made ready for signature between India and USA. Discussion on Launch Services Agreement have commenced.

(e) No, Sir.

Amount earned by ISRO

1131. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts Government are making to capture 10 percent share in the global market for launch vehicles and related services;

(b) the details of services being provided;

(c) the amount that has been earned by ISRO during 2004-05 with regard to launch vehicle and related services; and

(d) the details of countries which have evinced interest in using services on CARTOSAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Indian launch vehicle programme is mainly intended to meet the domestic requirements. After meeting internal requirements residual capacity is made available for commercial launches for other countries. Considering the current market scenario and heavy competition, maximum of 5% of global market share can be targeted for launch vehciles and related services.

In terms of efforts for capturing the market, the Government set up Antrix Corporation Ltd., (Antrix) under the Department of Space, which has been marketing the launch services from India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). Antrix has been in touch with the potential customers in different countires such as Canada, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, France, UK, Singapore, Indonesia, Italy, etc., to offer the launch services to the extent capacity is available after meeting national requirement for launches. In order to